

20 June 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Executive Order to Permit Agency Employees to Transfer to
the Competitive Service without Examination

1. I telephoned Mr. Stan Berg at the Civil Service Commission (101-26286) to tell him we had received a copy of OMB's response to Commissioner Hampton's recommended Executive Order. I said I felt discouraged at the turn of events and asked whether Mr. Berg could predict what action the CSC might take.

2. Mr. Berg observed that OMB "is quite negative about it" and that they had "put the worst possible light on it." Mr. Berg indicated that his group has been trying to develop alternatives to present for consideration by the Commissioners. He said for example that the Commission could have handled the matter administratively and without an Executive Order if it weren't for the problem of the Veterans Preference Act. One response to OMB might therefore be to again recommend the Executive Order for CIA with an indication that suitable arrangements could be worked out administratively as appropriate with other agencies.

3. Mr. Berg reaffirmed the opinion that the Executive Order represents desirable action. He said, "We are committed to study it (the problem presented by OMB) and we will do so." The Civil Service Commissioners will be considering it when alternatives have been staffed out. Mr. Berg also observed that employees of this Agency are probably more carefully selected than are Peace Corps volunteers who are now eligible to enter the competitive service. Mr. Berg commented that he does not control priorities for the attention of his office and that when crisis situations come up further staff work on the proposed Executive Order gets set back.

4. I thanked Mr. Berg for his continuing assistance and attention to our proposal which we believe to be in the Government's interest. I asked Mr. Berg to call on me if there was anything we could do to help move things along. He said he would do so.

5. It is my impression that Mr. Berg is genuinely convinced of the merit of the proposed Executive Order and that he will work as rapidly as possible toward presenting alternatives for consideration by the Commissioners in responding to OMB's letter of 10 May 1972 to Commissioner Hampton.



Chief Review Staff

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